RELLIGIOUS EMBLEMS FOR CATHOLICS

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) was formally created in 1934 by the American Catholic Bishops to promote Scouting under Catholic auspices. The NCCS currently operates under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through an appointed Bishop Liaison. It is composed of volunteer Scouters who are members of both the laity and the clergy. One of its many activities is the development and promotion of the religious emblems program.

The religious emblems program was developed by the NCCS as a faith development program, not a religious development program. In many cases, the program provides experiences that enhance the formal religious education the Scout is receiving. It is not designed to replace the Scout’s participation in his parish’s religious education programs. As this is a national program, no changes are permitted.

Material for the religious emblems program can be obtained from the BSA Supply website http://www.scoutstuff.org, from any Scout shop, or from your diocesan Catholic committee on Scouting.

National Catholic Committee on Scouting®
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079
www.nccs-bsa.org
Boy Scouts

**AD ALTARE DEI EMBLEM**

The Boy Scout of the Catholic faith of the Roman Rite, must be a registered Scout, active in the troop for 6 months, and have completed sixth grade. The emblem is designed for 13/14 year olds. The purpose of the program is to help Scouts develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community. This medal is awarded to a trained counselor. After the completion of the course and time, the person is considered a Troop Court of Honor. The emblem is presented at a diocesan or parish awards ceremony. The religious knot should be presented at a Troop Court of Honor.

**LIGHT IS LIFE RELIGIOUS EMBLEM**

The Boy Scout of the Eastern Rite Catholic Churches must be a registered Scout, active in the troop for 6 months, and have completed sixth grade. The design is for 12/13 year olds. Light is Life respects the cultural and ritual differences among the various Eastern Catholic Churches. The overall goal is to bring about in the Scout, through his Eastern Catholic Scouting experience, a deeper awareness of his share in faith-life. Then going forth, he will witness this life through maturity in communal worship and in Christian formation of his world. Scouts in an Eastern Catholic Church should work on Light is Life rather than the Ad Altare Dei emblem.

**ST. GEORGE Emblem**

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting, acting through the local diocese or eparchy, may award the St. George emblem to members of the clergy and religious. The emblem is designed for 13/14 year olds. The purpose of the program is to recognize the recipient's significant and outstanding contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth through Scouting. A completed nomination form is sent to the Diocesan Nominating Committee or Scout Chaplain. A limited number of medals may be issued each year. The emblem and note are usually presented at a Religious Emblems Ceremony, Bishop's Dinner or Adult Recognized Dinner.

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**Cub Scouts**

**LIGHT OF CHRIST RELIGIOUS EMBLEM**

The Cub Scout must be a registered Tiger Cub or Wolf Cub. The purpose of this program is to help the Cub Scout develop a personal relationship with Jesus. With the parent's active assistance and participation in this program, it is hoped that the Cub will come to see Jesus as a person and his friend. When all steps are completed, the Activity Book is reviewed by the Parish Priest, and the Scout is sent to the Diocesan Chaplain for final approval. The emblem is presented at a diocesan or parish ceremony. The religious knot should be presented at a Pack Meeting.

**PARVULI DEI RELIGIOUS EMBLEM**

The Cub Scout must be a registered Bear or Webelos of the Catholic Faith. The purpose of this program is to help the boy discover God in his daily life, to develop a positive self-image and to aid the Scout in his awareness of the responsibilities that grow out of God's love for him. When all steps are completed, the Activity Book is reviewed by the Parish Priest, and the Scout is sent to the Diocesan Chaplain for final approval. The emblem is presented at a diocesan or parish ceremony. The religious knot should be presented at a Pack Meeting.

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**Religious Emblem Universal Knot**

The Religious Emblem Universal Knot, No. 05007, is available to youth or leaders who have earned one of Scouting's religious emblems as a youth. Miniature program devices can be added to this knot to indicate the program in which the emblem is earned. For adults who receive the St. George Award or an adult religious emblem of another faith, a Scouter Religious Emblem Universal Knot, No. 05014, is available. The knot is worn on the uniform centered above the left breast pocket.

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**Helpful Resources**

- Light of Christ Activity Book ................. 33074
- Parvuli Dei Activity Book .................... 33085
- Ad Altare Dei Scout Manual .................. 33094
- Ad Altare Dei Counselor's Guide .............. 33073
- Pope Pius XII Participant Manual ............ 330076
- Pope Pius XII Facilitator Manual ............. 34733
- Light is Life Scout Manual .................... 16-3011
- A Scout Is Reverent .......................... 3075

**Recommenda**

- The following are available only through the NCCS office or its website at [www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org)
- Recommendation for the Saint George Emblem .......... 16-132
- Religious Emblems Reference Manual ............ 16-146
- The Religious Principles of the BSA ............ 16-146

More information on NCCS, programs and resources can be found on its website at [www.nccs-bsa.org](http://www.nccs-bsa.org)